



Kevin Hanson &lt;khanson.pc@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: DEADLINE September 7th - Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program**

1 message

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**Mike Winslow** <mwinslow@acrpc.org>  
To: Mike Winslow <mwinslow@acrpc.org>  
Bcc: khanson.pc@gmail.com

Mon, Aug 28, 2023 at 4:34 PM

If your community has applied for, or is considering applying for a Emergency Watershed Protection Program grant (details attached), please keep in mind that the Clean Water Service Provider may be able to assist with the required 25% local match if the project would also reduce phosphorus loading.  
Reach out to me as the Clean Water Service Provider if you think your project might qualify.

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Mike Winslow  
Otter Creek Basin Clean Water Service Provider  
14 Seminary St., Middlebury, VT 05753  
[acrpc.org/cwsp/](http://acrpc.org/cwsp/)



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**From:** Jill Arace <[jill.arace@vacd.org](mailto:jill.arace@vacd.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 4:13 PM  
**To:** Dan Albrecht <[dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org)>; dpierce <[dpierce@nrpcvt.com](mailto:dpierce@nrpcvt.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: DEADLINE September 7th - Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

Hi Dan and Dean,

Would you mind giving this program a last blast with the RPCs? It would be a shame if eligible folks missed the opportunity.

Thanks and best,

Jill

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D. Jill Arace, Executive Director

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)

PO Box 566, Waitsfield, VT 05673-0566

Phone: 802-496-5162 | Fax: 802-329-2057

[jill.arace@vacd.org](mailto:jill.arace@vacd.org) | [www.vacd.org](http://www.vacd.org)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jill Arace <[jill.arace@vacd.org](mailto:jill.arace@vacd.org)>

Date: Mon, Aug 28, 2023 at 4:04 PM

Subject: DEADLINE September 7th - Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

To: <[watershedsunitedvt@googlegroups.com](mailto:watershedsunitedvt@googlegroups.com)>

Greetings Everyone,

Below please find an email from Bob Thompson of NRCS indicating that there is still assistance available under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. Note that this program addresses imminent danger to life and property, and it is not limited to agricultural producers. The program is open 60 days from the floods of July 11th, so the application deadline is fast approaching: **September 7th**.

Please share this information with anyone who may be able to benefit from this program. Conservation districts can be sponsors of these projects as well.

Thank you and best regards,

Jill

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D. Jill Arace, Executive Director

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Thompson, Bob - FPAC-NRCS, VT <[bob.thompson@usda.gov](mailto:bob.thompson@usda.gov)>

Subject: FW: EWP Outreach!!!!

To: Jill Arace <[jill.arace@vacd.org](mailto:jill.arace@vacd.org)>

As you know, the devastating July 2023 Flood Event occurred on July 11<sup>th</sup>. According to Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program policy, sponsors (towns) have 60 days to submit "assistance request letters" to NRCS, after the "watershed event" to request financial and technical assistance. See example request letter attached. This letter does not obligate the sponsor to any financial commitment, other than promising to supply staff to accompany NRCS personnel when we come out to evaluate these sites. As of today, we have 16 days remaining and less than 20 towns have submitted assistance request letters. I realize this was a devastating event and most towns are still scurrying to put their towns back together and I'm sure most everyone is completely overwhelmed with the number of federal agencies

and programs coming in promising to help. However, I'm sure this program can further provide significant assistance to a large number of residents who have been impacted by this flood. I'm asking that you and the conservation districts reach out to the towns one more time to remind them of NRCS's EWP program (see attached fact sheet) and encourage them to submit "assistance request letters" as soon as possible. If you or any potential sponsors have any questions, please don't hesitate reach out to:

Bob Thompson, State Conservation Engineer – [bob.thompson@usda.gov](mailto:bob.thompson@usda.gov)

Michel Lapointe, EWP Program Manager – [michel.lapointe@usda.gov](mailto:michel.lapointe@usda.gov)

Leslie Wright, Watershed Engineer – [leslie.wright@usda.gov](mailto:leslie.wright@usda.gov)

The following are some of the key highlights of the EWP Program:

### **Submitting a Request for EWP Assistance**

NRCS must receive a request for EWP assistance within 60 days of the watershed event which caused the damage.

Note: Request for EWP Event 5041 need to be received by September 7, 2023.

Other than the header, the language in the attached VT Sample EWP Assistance Request Letter template must be included in your letter. The letter must have a penned or digital signature. A typed signature is not considered a signature by Grants and Agreements.

Initially, submitting a request for EWP assistance only obligates the Sponsor to provide a representative to visit damaged sites with the NRCS staff when they conduct the damage assessment.

### **Sponsor Share (25%)**

In Vermont, local municipalities that Sponsor private EWP projects typically require private landowners to cover the Sponsor share and be responsible for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the project on their land.

How municipalities do this varies and NRCS does not get involved with these side agreements.

I've seen where a town required a cashier's check from the landowner before construction would start to where the town filed a document in the town records stating the landowner was responsible for 25% of the construction cost and O&M of the project on their land.

### **EWP Reimbursement – Locally Led Agreement**

With a Locally Led agreement, the Sponsor solicits bids, awards the construction contract, and pays the contractor.

The Sponsor then submits a reimbursement request with the invoices and proof the contractor was paid.

NRCS reimburses the Sponsor 75% of the eligible construction cost.

**IMPORTANT** – NRCS cannot pay for any work that was completed prior to a signed agreement between NRCS and the local sponsor.

### **EWP Funds**

**Financial Assistance (FA) Funds** – Used for construction expenses.

- Reimbursed at 75%.

**Technical Assistance (TA) Funds** – Used for Sponsor administrative and design expenses.

Note: With the scope of damage in the state, Vermont NRCS may not have the capacity to provide designs and sponsors may be required to contract the engineering services. NRCS can provide TA funds to help cover some of the cost.

- Reimbursed at 100% up to the maximum allowed in the agreement. Reimbursement caps at the lesser of:
  - TA funds obligated or
  - Percentage of actual construction expenses.
- NRCS typically allows 2.25% for administrative expenses and 5.25% for design services.

Robert Thompson

State Conservation Engineer

USDA-NRCS, Vermont

(802)951-6796 x232

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*Addison County*

**Regional Planning Commission**

Adam G. Lougee, Executive Director

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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### 3 attachments



**VT\_NRCS\_EWPP\_Fact\_Sheet.pdf**

1905K



**VT Sample EWP Assistance Request Letter.docx**

30K



**VT NRCS EWP Assistance Request Letter Instructions.pdf**

145K